

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action. The outstanding Office Action Summary does not indicate that claims 22-43 have been withdrawn. The Examiner is respectfully asked to correct the status of the claims in the next communication.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 - Indefiniteness

Claims 1, 6, 8, 15 and 20 have been amended to overcome the rejection for indefiniteness.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 – Written Description

Claim 20 has been amended to overcome the rejection for lack of written description.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Obviousness

In response to the rejections of obviousness, applicants submit that amended claim 1 overcomes this rejection for the following reasons. Claim 1 recites that the liquid permeable porous reaction membrane and the semi-rigid liquid impervious bottom support layer are attached in a pouch like construction inside which the absorbent layer can be inserted at the time of use. This feature is not taught or suggest by any of the cited references, either individually or in combination. Therefore, the rejection for obviousness should not be retained because not all of the claimed features are disclosed in the cited references.

Conclusion

In light of the claim amendments and arguments presented above, applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that an interview would advance prosecution of the application, he is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any unaccounted fees due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 that is not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: August 4, 2005

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Washington Harbor
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143
Telephone: (202) 672-5300
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Matthew E. Mulkeen
Registration No. 44,250